

Application No. 09/973,225  
Amendment dated 5/7/04  
Reply to Office Action of 12/10/2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (cancelled).

Claim 2. (withdrawn)

Claim 3. (withdrawn)

Claim 4. (withdrawn)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A device to reduce a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device comprising a first frustaconical surface of generally uniform thickness, having a base and a top, with a radially outer planar rim forming the base with a smaller diameter than the hole and a central opening at the top, the rim being of greater diameter than, and concentric with, the central opening, and a second frustaconical surface the same shape as the first surface with a central opening the same diameter as the first surface opening and a base forming a radially outer planar rim the same diameter as the first surface rim, the second surface being inverted with respect to the first surface such that the first and second surfaces are joined proximate to the central opening of each surface and the rims of each surface are axially separated, the outer rims being engageable with the wall of the hole such that when the device is positioned in the hole with the planes of the rims normal to the axis of the

Application No. 09/973,225  
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hole and one rim is supported in a first axial direction, upon application of opposing axial forces force applied in a second opposing axial direction to the rims other rim, the axial separation of the rims is reduced and the rims are expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall

Claims 6. (Cancelled)

Claims 7. (Cancelled)

Claims 8. (Cancelled)

Claims 9. (Cancelled)

Claims 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Previously Amended) A device in accord with claim 5, wherein the element further comprises an annulus of elastomer inserted and retained between the first and second surfaces.

Claim 12 (New) A device for sealing a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device a cone or dome shaped continuous surface formed as a transverse bottom at a first end of a cylinder, the surface being of generally uniform thickness and having a radially outer, annular and planar rim smaller than the diameter of the hole, the surface rim being attached to the first end of the cylinder and the other, second end of the cylinder comprising a radially outwardly projecting shoulder

Application No. 09/973,225  
Amendment dated 5/7/04  
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having a greater diameter than the hole, the apex of the surface being raised relative to the surface rim in a first axial direction toward the second cylinder end, and the rim is supported in the first direction by the cylinder and rim has a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that upon application of an axial force applied in to the central apex in a second axial direction opposite to the first direction, the surface is flattened to span and seal the hole and the rim is expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall.